GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Historic Georgia Photos Resource Guide

The Georgia Historical Society (GHS) Research Center holds a vast collection of visual material that might be useful to those researching drawn or photographic depictions of Georgia places, people, businesses, groups, or events. This is a non-exhaustive list of visual resources offered at GHS, and some online recommendations designed to serve as an introduction. Keep in mind that information can be found in many other places. The Research Center catalogs are found under the "Research" tab at www.georgiahistory.com.

Archives and Online Catalog: Within GHS's Online Catalog, one will find listings for all of our archival holdings. Begin by searching with broad search terms and then try narrowing down your search terms by putting the terms in quotations. While not all of GHS's holdings have been digitized, some are viewable through our online catalog by clicking the "Records with Images" button that will appear below the search text box after searching a word or phrase.

GHS Library Holdings: GHS has over 20,000 rare and non-rare books that offer a vast assortment of visual material to researchers. One can view GHS's library holdings through the online catalog, under the research tab, or at the patron computer stations within the Research Center.

Notable GHS Collections: Below are some of the larger collections of visual materials within the GHS archival collections. Images in these collections capture life in Georgia in different ways, including photos, negatives, slides, portraits, stills, drawings, postcards, maps, etc. These collections detail the multitude of lives and perspectives of the people and places within Georgia.

- **GHS 1360: Cordray-Foltz Photography Studio photographs**
  - This collection consists of photographic prints and negatives (including glass negatives) produced by the Foltz Photography Studio in Savannah, Georgia, primarily depicting the Savannah/Chatham County, Georgia area from the early 1900s up to 1960.
- **GHS 1361-PH: GHS photography collection**
  - This is an artificial collection that features photographs that have been arranged into 23 different series based on subject matter. Series are denoted by a two-letter code such as events (EV), political (PL), monuments and memorials (MM), people (PO), and buildings (BD).
- **GHS 1361-PC: GHS postcards collection**
  - This is an artificial collection that includes postcards compiled from various sources and cover a broad geographic area within Georgia, and broad time span with emphasis on the 20th century. They are arranged by geographic location and then subdivided by subject.
- **GHS 1361-SG: GHS stereograph collection**

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- This is an artificial collection created by compiling stereographs from various sources into a single collection. The stereographs are arranged by subject matter. Stereograph viewers are available upon request at the GHS reference desk.

- **GHS 1361-CP: cased photographs collection**
  - This is an artificial collection created by compiling cased photographs including daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and ferrotypes (tintypes) from various sources into a single collection. Although this collection has some identified people within it, the majority of individuals featured within these materials are unidentified.
- **GHS 1361-AR: GHS architectural drawing collection**
  - This is an artificial collection of 75 drawings created by compiling architectural drawings from various sources, including other manuscript collections, into a single collection.
- **GHS 1361-PR: GHS etching, silhouette, and other print collection**
  - This artificial collection contains prints including etchings and silhouettes, as well as other print forms. Within the collection, there are prints of people and subject matter relating to Savannah and the greater Georgia region. Series 15 includes oversize prints of various topics, mostly depicting civil war images published in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, Harper's Weekly*, and the *Illustrated London News*.
- **GHS 1361-BR: GHS broadside collection**
  - This is an artificial collection created by compiling 68 broadsides, some possibly removed from other manuscript collections, into a single collection.
- **GHS 1361-MP: GHS collection of maps**
  - This is an artificial collection that has been organized into five series of increasingly generalized locational specificity: (I) Maps of Savannah, GA, (II) Maps of Chatham County, GA, (III) Maps of the State of Georgia, (IV) Maps of the American South, and (V) Maps of the United States.
- **GHS 1371: Robert L. Heriot photography records**
  - The Robert L. Heriot photographs and records contain negatives, proof prints, and copy prints of images taken by Robert Heriot as well as a few records relating to his photography business. Images are from the mid to late twentieth century in Georgia, with a strong emphasis on the Savannah area. The bulk of the images date from the 1950s to the 1980s.
- **GHS 1374: Edward Girard Savannah area photographs**
  - The majority of the images in this collection are of the Savannah area. There are many street views, exterior views of buildings, soldiers from World War I, and images of Tybee Island.
- **GHS 2461: Georgia Film Office negatives**
  - This collection contains photograph negatives of various locations throughout Georgia. They were taken by the Georgia Film Commission to document potential television and film shooting locations.

- **GHS 2746: Edwin L. Jackson collection**
  - This collection consists of materials collected by Edwin L. Jackson, a prominent Georgia historian, and includes textual documents, photographic material, maps, artifacts, and audiovisual items.
- **GHS 2901: *Savannah Morning News* photographs**
  - This collection contains photographic materials accumulated and published by the *Savannah Morning News* from approximately 1975 to 2019. The collection includes a wide variety of subjects, including but not limited to photographs, slides, negatives, transparencies, pamphlets, notes, and press releases.

Vertical Files: Biography, Genealogy, and Subject Vertical Files may include etchings, drawings, or visual material pertaining to a specific person, group of people, place, or subject. Please refer to the Biography, Genealogy, and Subject Vertical File Indexes through our website, under the Research Resources tab, or in the Research Center to see if we have any Vertical Files related to your research focus.

Newspapers: Visual material such as photos, political cartoons, portraits, and artistic renditions can be found through our newspaper holdings. Within GHS's archives and library, there are multiple ways and formats in which one can research our newspaper holdings. Please refer to our Newspaper Resource Guide, whether through our website, under the Research Resources tab, or in the Research Center, for more details.

Additional Online Recommendations: Below are some additional online archival catalogs that might be a beneficial source for photographic or visual materials of Georgia. Please note that all of the collections noted below maintain their own rules and guidelines for use.

- Digital Resources of the Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center
  - This online catalog is a great resource for any researchers looking into prominent Georgia figures, particularly those associated with Atlanta, as well as visual materials of northern Georgia to view and download.
- Georgia Archives Online Vault
  - Items from notable collections such as the Ad Hoc Collection, Campaign Materials Collection, Capitol Art Collection, County Maps, Vanishing Georgia, and the Historic Postcard Collection have been digitized for those to view and download. While the Georgia Archives does maintain some private collections, it is primarily a repository of government records and materials.
- Georgia State University Library Digital Collections
  - Items from notable collections such as the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Photographs, Broadcasting Collections, Johnny Mercer Collections, Lane Brothers Commercial Photographers Photographic Collection, and Atlanta Area Photographers Collection have been digitized for viewing and download.

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- Library of Congress
  - While featuring a vast amount of visual and documentary materials from all over the nation, one can find many digitized photos of prominent Georgia politicians and people, maps of Georgia and the South, regimental photos, and panoramas of Georgia military camps and forts, etc. to view and download.
- Getty Images
  - Getty Images is a helpful resource that can be used to find photos of Georgia politicians, events, and photos of notable celebrities and artists who were born in Georgia.
- Associated Press
  - The Associated Press is another helpful resource that can be used to find photos of Georgia politicians, photos used for news coverage, and photos of notable celebrities and artists who were born in Georgia.
- Digital Library of Georgia (DLG)
  - This online archive can be used to find digitized content held by a variety of Georgia repositories, including GHS. Material is sorted by Georgia counties and searchable by institutions that the DLG has partnered with. Notable institutions that have partnered with the DLG, that have materials to view and download through their online catalog, are the Georgia Historical Society, New Georgia Encyclopedia, Georgia Military College, Georgia Public Broadcasting, Atlanta History Center, etc.
- Internet Archive
  - This online archive has been used in the past for documents such as scanned books (from libraries that have partnered with Internet Archive) to visual materials such as photos and videos.
- Flickr
  - This online photo and video sharing platform is comprised of materials that have been submitted either by users or institutions.
- Wikimedia Commons
  - This online catalog is comprised of all the images that are currently or have been associated with Wikipedia articles on a vast variety of subjects. If deciding to use a photo from this resource, please take note of the "Licensing" and "File History" sections of interested images to see if the file has any use restrictions or parameters.
- National Archives
  - This online catalog is useful in providing scans of governmental documents covering U.S. politics and the military. One can find photos of prominent leaders and politicians from the Country, including Georgia. Additionally, this online catalog includes videos as well.
- The Historical Marker Database
  - Through this website, one can find photos of historical markers located across the country. Additional memorials and monuments are also included within this database as well.

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Reverse Image Searching: If one is beginning to track down the source of a photo, a researcher can download the image and reverse image search it through Google Images or Bing Images through their respective image search web pages.